

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 14, 2004, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract of Disclosure because it is not introduced with a sentence. However, MPEP § 608.01(b) does not require the Abstract introduction to be a sentence. Note that examples E (1) and (2) under the “Guidelines for preparation of Patent abstracts” do not begin with sentences. Accordingly, this objection is groundless and should be removed. Also, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Further, the Examiner has kindly indicated that Claims 3-5 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. By this paper, Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicant regards as the invention by including the allowable subject matter of Claim 3 (now cancelled), and Claim 6 has been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicant regards as the invention by including the allowable subject matter of Claim 8 (now cancelled). Moreover, Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to have proper dependency upon amended Claim 1. Claims 5, 8, and 16-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1 and 6, and Claims 2-4, 7 and 9-15 dependent thereon, which are the claims remaining in this Application are now allowable.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

U.S. Application No. 10/667,557 – Filed: September 22, 2003

Amendment Dated: February 2, 2005

Reply to Office Action Dated: December 14, 2004

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)

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